



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality

March 2, 2001



M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

J. Dale Givens
Secretary

Governor Foster Recognizes Environmental and Community Leaders

Governor Mike Foster has presented awards to 14 Louisiana manufacturing facilities across Louisiana for voluntarily implementing pollution prevention projects and community involvement programs. The awards were presented at the fourth annual Governor's Environmental Leadership Awards ceremony at the Louisiana State Capitol (see list of winners attached).

Governor Foster said, "Meeting environmental regulations and standards is one thing, but it takes a big commitment for a company to voluntarily spend the extra money and allocate the necessary resources to do more than the regulations require. Voluntary efforts to improve environmental performance and to reach out to the communities where these facilities are located are just great business, and I would like to encourage other companies across the state to do the same."

The facilities receiving awards are members of the Louisiana Environmental Leadership Pollution Prevention Program (LaELP), a voluntary program sponsored by the DEQ, and several professional and industrial associations. To join the LaELP, a company commits to a set of environmental principles and agrees to submit to the DEQ a pollution prevention plan containing voluntary waste reduction goals. The facility agrees to report annually on progress towards achieving those goals.

According to Dale Givens, DEQ Secretary, this goal-setting helps to motivate LaELP members to reach new heights in environmental performance. "This year's list of member awards shows very significant accomplishments in waste reduction and community environmental education. I'm encouraged to see companies from all manufacturing sectors using innovative ideas to make real environmental improvements," said Givens.

The Leadership Program has been active since 1995 and currently has over 80 members

GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2000

LOUISIANA FACILITIES RECOGNIZED BY GOVERNOR FOSTER FOR PROJECTS DEMONSTRATING LEADERSHIP IN POLLUTION PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH & INVOLVEMENT

Outstanding Pollution Prevention Achievement Awards

The Dow Chemical Company, Louisiana Operations (Plaquemine)

For reducing solid waste by over 300,000 pounds per year from their Methocel production unit through the efforts of a seven-employee empowered team using a rigorous and systematic approach to identify and eliminate the root causes of off-specification product.

Contact: Donna Carville (225) 353-1824

DuPont Dow Elastomers, Pontchartrain Site (LaPlace)

For reducing at the source hazardous organic waste emitted to the atmosphere and dissolved in wastewater by designing and substituting a non-fouling spray condenser in their Dichlorobutene unit, a total of 136,000 pounds per year reduction.

Contact: Martin Guidry (504) 536-5338

International Paper, Pineville Mill (Pineville)

For providing the leadership that resulted in the approvals necessary for the marketing of wood ash, a high volume solid waste generated in paper manufacture, as a soil amendment or nutritional supplement in agriculture rather than continued land disposal on site.

Contact: Mike Cook (318) 441-4395

Syngenta Corporation, formerly Novartis Crop Protection (St. Gabriel)

For developing an exceptional release and electronic reporting system that addresses all releases however small; by documenting, investigating, and tracking all releases, followed by aggressively pursuing corrective action, releases have decreased by over 65 percent.

Contact: Karen Williams (225) 642-1255

Pioneer Americas (St. Gabriel)

For its project to optimize its integrated mercury recovery system (known as Remerc); the mercury content of the resulting wastes that must be disposed of off-site has been reduced 99 percent and will be reflected in a 39 percent reduction in TRI data for off-site transfers of mercury.

Contact: Dana Oliver: (225) 642-1863

PPG Industries, Lake Charles Facility (Lake Charles)

For designing a new process to not only reduce the total waste generated but also to recycle the recovered organics to the reactors. This resulted in a reduction of 3.8 million pounds annually of chlorinated hydrocarbons to be incinerated and over 2,300 tons less salt added to the Calcasieu River estuary.

Contact: Gerald Perry (337) 708-4370

Uniroyal Chemical Company (Geismar)

For reducing Rubber Gel hazardous waste by 515,000 pounds per year or 91 percent and reducing three TRI chemicals by about 84,000 pounds or 53 percent. This was done by a series of process changes based on research to better understand a process reactor mechanism.

Contact: Jay Patel (225) 673-0783

Pollution Prevention Achievement Awards

Air Products and Chemicals, St. Gabriel Plant (St. Gabriel)

For major process renovations involving conversion to continuous processing, more effective catalyst, and improved vent recovery resulting in significant reductions in air pollution emissions, organic waste to be treated and worker exposure

Contact: William Henry (225) 642-4213

BASF Corporation (Geismar)

For development of a biological treatment system that converts over 2.3 million pounds of nitrates annually in their wastewater to atmospheric nitrogen, contributing to the reduction of nutrient loading in the Gulf of Mexico.

Contact: Vernon Fabre: (225) 473-9871

BellSouth-Louisiana Operations (New Orleans)

For setting a strong leadership example for non-manufacturers with far-flung facilities, recovering and reusing anti-freeze from 2600 vehicles operating from 351 manned facilities across Louisiana and arranging for materials recovery from 12,000 fluorescent tubes annually.

Contact: Allen Champagne: (504) 245-537

Chevron Oronite Company, Oak Point Plant (Belle Chasse)

For eliminating 400,000 pounds of sulfur dioxide emissions while recovering four million pounds of sulfur by applying a company-developed technological breakthrough that allows desulfurization of highly variable batch cycle processes.

Contact: Bruce Beynon: (504) 391-6471

General Motors, Shreveport Assembly Plant (Shreveport)

For completely eliminating methyl ethyl ketone from their facility by systematically finding substitutes and process improvements resulting in reduced air toxic emissions, hazardous waste disposal and worker exposure while maintaining uncompromised product quality.

Contact: David Burroughs: (318) 683-9267

International Paper, Mansfield Mill (Mansfield)

For the design, construction and demonstration of an effective constructed wetland treatment system for their wastewater, a system that imitates and enhances the cleansing functions performed in nature by wetland ecosystems.

Contact: Herschel Rice: (318) 871-1512

Special Citation for Pollution Prevention Achievement

Rubicon Incorporated & Air Products and Chemicals (Geismar)

For an inter-company agreement that resulted in Rubicon shutting down their old Dinitrotoluene (DNT) unit and relying on an adjacent new DNT unit constructed by Air Products. For every pound of DNT that Rubicon purchases from Air Products, there is 47 percent less TRI chemicals generated; that's well over three million pounds annually.

*Contact: Elizabeth McDaniel: (225) 673-6141 Ext. 1379 &
William Henry 225(642-4213)*

Outstanding Community Outreach Achievement

The Dow Chemical Company, Louisiana Operations (Plaquemine)

For partnering with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and Louisiana State Police to provide safe, secure, and environmentally sound disposal of confiscated drugs and paraphernalia, an outgrowth of the Dow Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day - an outstanding example of combining public service with environmental stewardship.

Contact: Donna Carville: (225) 353-1824